

Mayor Steven Reed,

March 1, 2021

The members of the Montgomery Street Naming Committee believe we have successfully completed the Mayor's charge. The Committee has identified twelve individuals whose contributions merit naming a Montgomery street in their honor. Conversely, the Committee has identified ten individuals for the Mayor to consider for removal.

The committee opted to place the names in alphabetical order, leaving for the Mayor to determine whom among the included names he would like to prioritize. In the case of removing Jackson Street, named for Andrew Jackson, removing the name and replacing it with the name Martin Luther King, Jr., makes sense because Rev. King lived on this street during his time in Montgomery. This one for one rationale does not work as effectively with other names on the list. Some streets the Committee has recommended be considered for removal are obscure, short, or little traveled; i.e., Calhoun Street is in a little traveled street in an industrial area. It would not be appropriate to apply the name of a person of national or international standing, like John Lewis, to such an obscure street.

In some cases the Mayor may look at the many Montgomery street names selected for less serious reasons, including streets named for fictional television characters, common words spelled backwards, names derived from nature, or even streets named for the developers' favorite beer. Some of these streets may offer more high profile opportunities for renaming that may be more commensurate with the esteem of the person we recommend naming a street for.

In the Committee's report we included a statement of values and the criteria for making decisions. The document reflects what attributes were important in identifying individuals to be honored. On the other hand, the Committee included language that identifies what criteria was used to identify and to evaluate names for removal.

After each Committee member assembled their own lists, the submitted names were compiled into a comprehensive list. It took several votes and significant discussion for the Committee to agree on a final list of names.

Committee members wanted to collectively and individually thank the Mayor for affording us the opportunity to serve the public good.

Members of Montgomery Street Naming Committee
Ed Bridges
Elvin Lang
Nacy Anderson
Vanzzta Penn McPherson
Regina M. Moorer

